No, Sir. Normally it does not take much time for a dead body of an Indian worker to be transported to India. However, in certain situations like unnatural death, non-cooperation from the foreign sponsor, lack of communication from next-of-kin in India for conveying their willingness to accept the dead body, certain amount of delay becomes unavoidable.

(c) All Indian diplomatic missions abroad have standing instructions to expedite the completion of local formalities by liaising with the authorities of the concerned government so as to ensure timely despatch of dead bodies of workers to India on priority basis.

Secretary level talks between India and Nepal

†1231. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issue of talks between the Home Secretaries of India and Nepal in February, 2002;

(b) whether any positive outcome has reached out of the last three rounds talks;

(c) whether any co-operation has been sought from the Nepal Government with regard to controlling the problem of prostitution caused by bringing in a large number of girls and women from Nepal to India in addition to the problems of terrorism and smuggling; and

(d) if not, by when Government would take joint and final decision with Nepal on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Home Secretary-Level-Talks between India and Nepal are part of a bilateral institutional mechanism to jointly address the issues relating to maintenance of peace and security and prevention of criminal activities in the India-Nepal border areas.

The fourth round of Home Secretary-level talks between India and Nepal was held at New Delhi from February 6-7, 2002. The Nepalese Home Secretary also called on the Union Home Minister. The two sides reviewed the progress in the implementation of the decisions

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

taken in the previous meetings between the Home Secretaries and the Joint Working Group on Border Management and agreed to strengthen the on-going cooperation between concerned agencies of the two countries with the objective of combating terrorism, smuggling and other criminal activities across the India-Nepal border. They also agreed to prevent the use of their respective territories for activities directed against the other side.

The SAARC convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, signed during the 11th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu from January 4—6, 2002, provides a framework for co-operation to prevent trafficking in women and children for prostitution. In addition, regional workshops are organized regularly to enhance cross-border co-operation to prevent human trafficking.

(d) Does not arise.

Withdrawing Pakistan from Most Favoured Nations List

1232. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering withdrawing Pakistan from its list of "Most Favoured Nations" and using the Indus Water Treaty to its advantage as a possible response to Pakistan's continued support to terrorism; and

(b) if so, what are the facts of the case and Government's views on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Following the December 13 attack on the Parliament, Government took several measures considered necessary and effective to highlight the need for Pakistan to end support to cross-border terrorism and infiltration. These included the decision to recall the Indian High Commissioner from Islamabad; terminate the services of Samjhauta Express and the Delhi-Lahore bus service with effect from 1st January, 2002; reduce the strength of the respective High Commissions in the two countries by 50%; restrict the movement of